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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,930	02/27/2004	David Martyn Roessler	GP-302457	9546

7590 07/13/2006

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EXAMINER

LEE, GUNYOUNG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,930	ROESSLER, DAVID MARTYN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gunyoung T. Lee	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/21/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on Jun 21, 2006 has been entered:
- Claims 11, 14 and 15 have been amended;
 - Claims 1-10 and 18-20 have been cancelled;
 - Claims 11-17 are still pending in this application, with claim 11 being independent.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 17 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim, or amend the claim (**with dependency on claim 16**) to place the claim in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Appropriate correction is required.
4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 11-12 and 17, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 6,464,381) in view of Pike-Biegunski et al. (US 5,036,249).

6. In regard to claims 11-12 and 17, Anderson et al. disclose a vehicle interior lighting system (Fig. 6) having:

- A vehicle roof wall (10) having an interior surface (22) and an exterior surface (20);
- An interior panel (12) secured to the interior surface (22) (Fig. 6) of the vehicle roof wall (10), wherein the interior panel (12) substantially covers the interior surface of the vehicle roof wall (10) (Fig. 1);
- A light-conducting component (sun roof or window of the vehicle) (col. 5, lines 7-12) disposed between a location external to the vehicle and a point adjacent to the interior panel to transmit external light to the interior panel;
- Wherein the interior panel is configured for a pattern (col. 5, lines 9-12).

7. However, Anderson et al. do not expressly disclose that the interior panel (electroluminescent panel) is a phosphorescent material dispersed within a polymer matrix. Pike-Biegunski et al. disclose an electroluminescent lamp panel having a phosphorescent material (60) dispersed within a polymer matrix (62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lamp panel of Pike-Biegunski et al. with a phosphorescent material in the polymer

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matrix for the vehicle interior lighting system of Anderson, for the purpose of providing illumination with afterglow.

8. Claims 11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 6,464,381) in view of Britt et al. (US 4,401,050).

9. In regard to claims 11 and 13-15, Anderson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for:

- A panel having a phosphorescent material disposed on at least one surface of a polymer matrix (claim 13);
- Wherein the phosphorescent material includes a non-oxide phosphor, an oxide phosphor, or a combination of both (claim 14);
- Wherein the non-oxide phosphor is selected from a group consisting of zinc sulfide, zinc sulfide doped with a transition metal, and zinc sulfide doped with a rare earth metal (claim 15).

10. In regard to a phosphorescent material disposed on at least one surface of the polymer matrix (claim 13), Britt et al. disclose a phosphorescent lighting device (Fig. 2) having a phosphorescent material (16) disposed on at least one surface (22) of the polymer matrix (12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the phosphorescent material as shown in Britt et al. for the vehicle interior lighting system of Anderson et al., for the purpose of providing a protection on the phosphorescent material by placing under it the polymer layer.

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11. In regard to claims 14 and 15, it is well known and available knowledge to one of ordinary skill in the art that phosphorescent effect is obtainable by using various materials including a non-oxide phosphor, an oxide phosphor, or a combination of both, wherein the non-oxide phosphor is one of zinc sulfide, zinc sulfide doped with a transition metal, and zinc sulfide doped with an earth metal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to choose one of available phosphorescent materials for the vehicle interior lighting system of Anderson et al., for the purpose of providing high quality illumination with low cost. Further, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of the suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

12. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 6,464,381) in view of Benavides (US 5,053,930).

13. In regard to claim 16, Anderson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for a panel having a phosphorescent material and a polymer matrix, wherein the phosphorescent material is excited by external light. Benavides discloses an illuminating vehicle device having a panel with a polymer matrix and a phosphorescent material (col. 2, lines 54-58) excited by external light (col. 6, lines 50-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the phosphorescent material and polymer matrix of Benavides for the vehicle interior

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lighting system of Anderson, for the purpose of providing illumination without using a conventional power source (battery) of a vehicle.

Conclusion


14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tokarz et al. (US 4,864,473), Burkbank et al. (US 5,583,394), and Grimm (US 6623069) show vehicle lighting systems with interior panels.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gunyoung T. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-8588. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:30 - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea can be reached at (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GTL
7/6/2006


ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER